

CHAPTER 12

VETERANS AND SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS

The purpose of the Veterans Benefit Act of 2003 is to provide additional technical, financial, and procurement assistance to veteran-owned small businesses, to expand existing assistance programs, and to establish new ones for veterans who own or operate small businesses.

A set-aside program for service-disabled veterans was established under this act and became effective May 2004. A full description of the set-aside provisions is in FAR Part 19.14. The set-aside program established targeted goals to achieve maximum practicable acquisition opportunities at the prime and subcontract levels for service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns. See Chapter 5 of this manual for instructions on establishing a service-disabled veteran small business set-aside.

A. AUTHORITY

The “Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999,” (Veterans Act) Public Law 106-50 was signed into law by President Clinton on August 16, 1999 and applies to Federal solicitations issued on or after October 1, 2000; and, Public Law 108-183 implements set-aside provisions for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

B. ELIGIBILITY

Veteran – a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released from under conditions other than dishonorable.

Service-Disabled Veteran – veteran with a disability.

Small Business Concern owned and controlled by a Veteran – a small business concern meeting Federal statutory size related regulatory requirements.

Small Business Concern owned and controlled by Service-Disabled Veterans – a small business concern: 51% ownership by one or more service-disabled veteran and management and daily business operations controlled by one or more veteran.

More specifically, the Veterans Act:

1. expands the eligibility for certain small business assistance programs to veterans,
2. directs certain departments and agencies to take actions that enhance small business assistance to veterans,

3. establishes new institutions to provide small business assistance to veterans, and provides access to:
 - business development
 - technical assistance
 - financial assistance
 - procurement assistance

C. GOVERNMENT-WIDE PARTICIPATION GOALS

The government-wide goal for participation by small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans shall be maximum practicable opportunities and the government-wide goal for participation of service-disabled veterans, a subset of the veteran category, shall be not less than 3 percent of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards for each fiscal year.

For more information on the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 or if you have questions on resources available for veterans, visit the Veteran Administration's Web sites at <http://www.va.gov> and <http://www.vetbiz.gov>. Also visit the Small Business Administration Web site <http://www.sba.gov> to learn about other available Federal assistance for veterans.